

– Contributes to CO2 reduction in the residential sector –
Commencement of the development and demonstration of combined residential energy systems
Launch of The “SOENE” Project

Nippon Oil Corporation (President: Shinji Nishio) is pleased to announce that we have started to develop and demonstrate “combined residential energy systems”^{*1} that are environmentally-friendly, comfortable and economical, and have launched the “SOENE” project for future commercialization.

CO2 reduction in the residential sector has recently become a pressing issue as a response to global environment issues. However, patterns of energy usage in houses vary a great deal depending on region, family members and lifestyle.

This project aims to meet such different patterns, to develop and demonstrate the optimum “combined residential energy systems” for each customer, and to commercialize the systems in 2010.

Specifically, with cooperation from specialists in home design, energy management and energy equipments, we shall install in a house which to be built in Yokohama City (1) a high-efficiency oil/gas equipments such as the home fuel cell system, “ENE-FARM^{*2}” and latent heat recovery type kerosene water heaters, “Eco-Feel”, (2) natural energy equipments such as photovoltaic generation and solar water heaters, and (3) a “HEMS (Home Energy Management System)” that can monitor and control the energy use of residential energy equipments and household electrical appliances. Through the installation of the above equipments, we shall verify the effective combination of various energy equipments based on the actual usage, and find the optimum ways of use of them (energy-saving activities by people).

In this house, with a high-performance of the house itself (high insulation and high air-tightness), the use of high efficiency oil/gas equipments, and the energy-saving activities of the inhabitant, we aim to reduce CO2 emission by 50%^{*3} from 1990. In addition to this, through photovoltaic generation, we aim to offset the remaining CO2 emission so as to attain the virtual carbon free.

With regard to the energy equipments used in this project, we shall launch trial marketing of photovoltaic generation systems made by Sanyo Electric during 2008, and in 2009 we shall start selling home fuel cell system, “ENE-FARM,” that use LPG, kerosene and utility gas.

Through this project we shall contribute to the reduction of CO2 emissions in the residential sector by supplying combined energy systems for residential use.

^{*1} Combined residential energy systems (Name used by Nippon Oil Corporation): The system which selects and combines the following equipments depending on the application environment

Fossil energy equipments (fuel cell, high-efficiency water heater and floor heating), natural energy equipments (photovoltaic generation and solar water heater), Home Energy Management Systems (HEMS) that monitors and controls operations of various energy equipment

^{*2} “エネファーム” and “ENE-FARM” are trademarks under application

*3 50% reduction: A model case estimated by Nippon Oil Corporation (Reduction from approximately 6 tons per house to approximately 3 tons per house a year)

Appendix:  "SOENE" Project Presentation (Japanese only)